

What is claimed is:

1           1. A computer-implemented method of performing operations on a plurality of  
2 linked records, the method comprising:

3               (a) determining at least two selected records from an end user in  
4 response to user selection of at least two of a plurality of node display elements,  
5 wherein each node display element is associated with one of the plurality of  
6 linked records, and wherein at least a pair of node display elements are  
7 respectively associated with a pair of records that are linked to one another, the  
8 pair of node display elements graphically linked with one another; and  
9               (b) performing a common operation on the selected records.

1           2. The method of claim 1, wherein the common operation is selected from the  
2 group consisting of printing the selected records, storing the selected records, caching  
3 the selected records, retrieving the selected records, editing the selected records, and  
4 combinations thereof.

1           3. The method of claim 1, wherein the common operation includes printing the  
2 selected records.

1           4. The method of claim 3, further comprising determining a number of copies  
2 to print for each selected record based upon user selection.

1           5. The method of claim 4, wherein determining the number of copies for a first  
2 selected record is responsive to a number of times the end user selects the first selected  
3 record.

1           6. The method of claim 1, wherein the common operation includes retrieving  
2 the selected records.

1           7. The method of claim 6, further comprising:  
2                 (a) displaying a link display element graphically linked to a node display  
3           element for a first selected record to be retrieved; and  
4                 (b) displaying a retrieve progress indicator during retrieval of the first  
5           selected record, the retrieve progress indicator graphically linked to one of the  
6           link display element and the node display element associated with the first  
7           selected record.

1           8. The method of claim 1, wherein performing the common operation includes  
2           performing the common operation on the records in the order in which the selected  
3           records were selected by an end user.

1           9. The method of claim 1, wherein performing the common operation includes  
2           performing the common operation hierarchically by performing the common operation  
3           on a parent selected record prior to performing the common operation on a child  
4           selected record thereto, wherein the parent selected record includes a link to the child  
5           selected record.

1           10. The method of claim 1, wherein performing the common operation includes  
2           concurrently performing the common operation on the selected records.

1           11. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of linked  
2           records is a child record, and at least one of the plurality of linked records is a parent  
3           record including a link to the child record, the method further comprising selecting the  
4           child record in response to user selection of the node display element associated with  
5           the parent record.

1           12. A computer system configured to perform operations on a plurality of  
2 linked records, the computer system comprising:

3               (a) a computer display; and

4               (b) a processor configured to display on the computer display a  
5 plurality of node display elements, wherein each node display element is  
6 associated with one of the plurality of linked records, and wherein at least a pair  
7 of node display elements are respectively associated with a pair of records that  
8 are linked to one another, the pair of node display elements graphically linked  
9 with one another; to determine at least two selected records from an end user in  
10 response to user selection of at least two of the plurality of node display  
11 elements; and to perform a common operation on the selected records.

1           13. The computer system of claim 12, wherein the common operation is  
2 selected from the group consisting of printing the selected records, storing the selected  
3 records, caching the selected records, retrieving the selected records, editing the  
4 selected records, and combinations thereof.

1           14. The computer system of claim 12, wherein the common operation includes  
2 printing the selected records.

1           15. The computer system of claim 14, wherein the processor is further  
2 configured to determine a number of copies to print for each selected record based upon  
3 user selection.

1           16. The computer system of claim 15, wherein the processor is configured to  
2 determine the number of copies for a first selected record responsive to a number of  
3 times the end user selects the first selected record.

1           17. The computer system of claim 12, wherein the common operation includes  
2     retrieving the selected records.

1           18. The computer system of claim 17, wherein the processor is further  
2     configured to display a link display element graphically linked to a node display  
3     element for a first selected record to be retrieved, and to display a retrieve progress  
4     indicator during retrieval of the first selected record, the retrieve progress indicator  
5     graphically linked to one of the link display element and the node display element  
6     associated with the first selected record.

1           19. The computer system of claim 12, wherein the processor is configured to  
2     perform the common operation by performing the common operation on the records in  
3     the order in which the selected records were selected by an end user.

1           20. The computer system of claim 12, wherein the processor is configured to  
2     perform the common operation hierarchically by performing the common operation on  
3     a parent selected record prior to performing the common operation on a child selected  
4     record thereto, wherein the parent selected record includes a link to the child selected  
5     record.

1           21. The computer system of claim 12, wherein the processor is configured to  
2     perform the common operation by concurrently performing the common operation on  
3     the selected records.

1           22. The computer system of claim 12, wherein at least one of the plurality of  
2     linked records is a child record, and at least one of the plurality of linked records is a  
3     parent record including a link to the child record, and wherein the processor is further  
4     configured to select the child record in response to user selection of the node display  
   element associated with the parent record.

1 23. A program product comprising:

2 (a) a program configured to perform a method of performing operations  
3 on a plurality of linked records, the method comprising determining at least two  
4 selected records from an end user in response to user selection of at least two of  
5 a plurality of node display elements, wherein each node display element is  
6 associated with one of the plurality of linked records, and wherein at least a pair  
7 of node display elements are respectively associated with a pair of records that  
8 are linked to one another, the pair of node display elements graphically linked  
9 with one another; and performing a common operation on the selected records;  
10 and

11 (b) a signal bearing media bearing the program.

1 24. The program product of claim 23, wherein the signal bearing media

2 includes at least one of a transmission type media and a recordable media.